

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

New claims 56-67 are directed toward patentably distinct species III (Figure 9). Figure 9 shows one modification of the first embodiment (Figures 1-7). Thus, it is believed that the species III should be understood together with Figures 1-7.

One feature of species III is the space-non-selective application of a plurality of divided MT pulses. Such plural divided MT pulses are applied sequentially in time to a wider region (area) of an object than the imaging region because there is no gradient applied concurrently with such MT pulses.

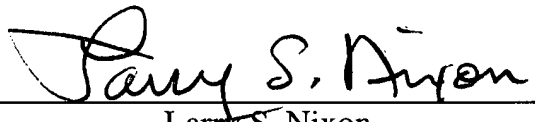
Another feature, which may be added to species III due to the modification from the first embodiment, is that each divided MT pulse has a flip angle smaller than a conventional MT pulse. For example, the flip angle of each divided MT pulse may be 90 to 100 degrees, while the conventional one is 500 to 1000 degrees (for example, refer to the specification, page 21, second paragraph or page 24, line 3).

U.S. Patent No. 6,320,377 cited by the Examiner in the prosecution of the parent application, discloses a plurality of saturation pulses applied slice selectively (i.e., concurrently with the application of slice gradient pulses Gs). The flip angle of each saturation pulse disclosed by U.S. Patent No. 6,320,377 is less than 90 degrees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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